



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 5027**

January Session, 2013



**AN ACT PROHIBITING THE SALE OF DOGS AND CATS OBTAINED  
FROM SUBSTANDARD DOMESTIC ANIMAL MILLS AND REQUIRING  
A STANDARD OF CARE APPLICABLE TO ANIMAL IMPORTERS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2013*) (a) For purposes of this  
2 section, "substandard domestic animal mill" means any facility in this  
3 state: (1) Where dogs or cats are housed in a cage without being  
4 allowed daily exercise, (2) where dogs or cats are not maintained in a  
5 dry and reasonably clean condition, (3) that does not provide adequate  
6 protection for such dogs or cats from the elements, (4) that does not  
7 provide clean and potable water for such dogs and cats at all times, (5)  
8 that does not provide proper and nutritious food for such dogs or cats,  
9 (6) that houses dogs or cats in an enclosure with floors that are not  
10 constructed in a manner that protects the dogs' or cats' paws and legs  
11 from injury, (7) that houses dogs or cats in an enclosure that does not  
12 allow them to turn around freely or to sit, stand or lie down  
13 comfortably, or (8) that maintains dogs or cats in an enclosure that is  
14 not at least six inches higher than the head height of the tallest dog or  
15 cat in such enclosure.

16 (b) No person shall operate a substandard domestic animal mill in  
17 this state.

18 (c) No pet shop licensed pursuant to section 22-344 of the general

19 statutes, as amended by this act, shall sell a dog or cat to the public if  
20 such dog or cat was obtained by such pet shop from a substandard  
21 domestic animal mill.

22 Sec. 2. Subsection (e) of section 22-344 of the general statutes is  
23 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*  
24 *passage*):

25 (e) (1) No animal importer shall import any dog or cat into this state  
26 until such person registers as an animal importer with the  
27 commissioner. Such registration shall be on a form as prescribed by the  
28 commissioner. Such registration shall require the submission of the  
29 following information: (A) The name, mailing address, business  
30 address, telephone number and Internet address of such registrant, (B)  
31 if such registrant is domiciled out-of-state, the name, Connecticut  
32 address and phone number of a Connecticut-based agent for service of  
33 process, and (C) the number of animals brought into the state during  
34 the prior year by such animal importer and the state or country of  
35 origin for each such animal. Such registration shall be accompanied by  
36 payment of a fee of one hundred dollars and shall be valid until the  
37 December thirty-first following such registration. Such registration  
38 shall be renewed annually, in accordance with the provisions of this  
39 subsection, provided the commissioner determines that such registrant  
40 complies with any requirements provided by the commissioner as to  
41 the health, safety and humane treatment of animals that is applicable  
42 to animal importers. Such registration shall not be required for any  
43 employee or volunteer of a registered animal importer or other person  
44 who is required to be licensed pursuant to the provisions of this  
45 chapter, provided such employee, volunteer or other person is not  
46 otherwise an animal importer. Any person who violates the provisions  
47 of this subdivision shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars.

48 (2) Any animal importer who intends to offer for sale, adoption or  
49 transfer any dog or cat at a venue or location that is open to the public  
50 or at an outdoor location, including, but not limited to, a parking lot or  
51 shopping center, shall provide notice to the Department of Agriculture

52 and the municipal zoning enforcement officer of the town where any  
53 such sale, adoption or transfer will occur, not later than ten days prior  
54 to such event. Such notice shall state the date for such sale, adoption or  
55 transfer event, the exact location of such event and the anticipated  
56 number of animals for sale, adoption or transfer at such event. Any  
57 person who fails to provide notice as required pursuant to this  
58 subdivision shall be fined not more than one hundred dollars per  
59 animal that is offered for sale, adoption or transfer at such event.

60 (3) For the purpose of this subsection, "animal importer" means a  
61 person who brings any dog or cat into this state from any other  
62 sovereign entity for the purpose of offering such dog or cat to any  
63 person for sale, adoption or transfer in exchange for any fee, sale,  
64 voluntary contribution, service or any other consideration. "Animal  
65 importer" includes any commercial or nonprofit animal rescue or  
66 adoption, humane relocation or delivery organization that is not  
67 otherwise required to be licensed under the provisions of this chapter.

68 (4) The provisions of this subsection shall not be construed to apply  
69 to any animal importer who offers a dog or cat for sale to a pet shop  
70 that is licensed in accordance with the provisions of subsection (b) of  
71 this section, provided such animal is delivered directly to a pet shop.

72 (5) The Commissioner of Agriculture may inspect any animal  
73 imported by an animal importer or any record required to be kept by  
74 such animal importer, provided such inspection shall not authorize the  
75 entry of the commissioner into the residence of such animal importer.

76 (6) Not later than December 31, 2013, the Commissioner of  
77 Agriculture shall prescribe the conditions that constitute the humane  
78 treatment of animals that is applicable to animal importers. Such  
79 conditions shall include, but not be limited to, the appropriate shelter,  
80 availability of food and water and standard of care to be provided by  
81 an animal importer to such animals.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	<i>July 1, 2013</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	22-344(e)

**ENV**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*